

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/518,134

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Applicant(s)

GEURDEN, ARMIN

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on September 11, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-21.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on September 11, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claim 20 Line 4, the phrase "least one" should be amended as -at least one-.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 2-21 are allowed.**

Reasons For Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 21 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the longitudinal guide will deform the flexible section of the locking bar during longitudinal movement of the bar.

Berggren (WO 95/27115) discloses a lock comprising at least one longitudinal movable locking bar (10 and 11), which is driven by an actuator acting by way of a rotor (12). The locking bar, the rotor and an elastic element (13 and 14), located in

between, are designed as a one-piece part. The lock further comprises a longitudinal guide (18) for the locking bar and a locking opening in a stationary part (15) into which an outer end of the locking bar travels to produce a locking effect. The elastic element is formed by an inner section of the locking bar itself and provides a bendable flexing section on the locking bar. The rotor (12) is connected at a circumferential point onto a lateral flank of the flexing section of the locking bar.

Saunders (US 5,992,188) teaches that it is well known in the art to provide a longitudinal guide (34) that covers the entire locking bar system and that includes a curved section for a flexing member (58).

However, Berggren, as modified by Saunders, fails to disclose that the guide member will deform the flexing member. Berggren, as modified by Saunders, teaches that the guide member will enclose the flexible member, not deform.

Jakeway (US 3,127,206) discloses an actuator (20) that moves a "locking bar" that includes a flexible section (43) and a rigid section (11). A guide member (29) will deform the flexible section when the bar is moved.

However, Jakeway fails to disclose a rotor that would have a circumferential point that engages a lateral flank of the flexible section. Jakeway discloses that the actuator is a push button (20) that pushes the flexible member.

Further, Jakeway fails to disclose that an outer end of the remaining section (the rigid one) produce a locking effect with respect to a locking opening when the outer end travels into the opening. Jakeway discloses that the outer end of the remaining

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section (at 9) will move a latch member (2) into an opening to produce a locking effect.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 571-272-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on 10-7pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the

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automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Carlos Lugo
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3676

November 21, 2006.



BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER